Interest-free loans for cotton growers

786. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its inability to provide interest-free loans to cotton growers through banks in the counry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to instruct all public sector banks to provide maximum relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities like drought and floods through interest-free loans; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The banks raise resources at certain cost and have also to bear operational expenses. It is, therefore, not possible for them to lend money without charging any interest. However, in cases of crops affected by natural calamities like drought/floods, etc.; relief in repayment of past dues, is provided by the banks in accordance with the guidelines laid from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India.

Seizure of gold in Bombay

787. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 22nd March, 1988 to the effect that gold worth Rs. 24 lakhs was seized in Bombay in three different cases at Terminal-II;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The news-item in question appeared in the 'Indian Express' (Bombay Editon) of 23rd March 1988 and not of 22nd March, 1988.

(b) to (d) Examination of one package declared to contain Baby food which had arrived as unaccompanied baggage at Sahar Airport, Bombay, from Dubai resulted in the recovery and seizure of 400 pieces of quartz watches of brand name Citizen and 5 gold bars weighing 583 grammes together valued at approximately Rs. 2.63 lakhs, on 21-3-1988.

Examination of unaccompanied baggage which had arrived from Abu Dhabi at Sahar Airport, Bombay, also resulted in the recovery and seizure of 50 gold bars and 4 gold coins totally weighing 5846 grammes and dutiable goods collectively valued at Rs. 18.59 lakhs approximately, on 22-3-1988.

Search of one person who had arrived at Sahar Airport, Bombay from Abu Dhabi on 22-3-1988 also resulted in the recovery and seizure of 7 gold bars totally weighing 874.2 grammes valued at Rs. 2.74 lakhs approximately and Indian currency of Rs. 2,400. The passenger was arrested.

Introduction of Social Security Schemes for weaker sections

788. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Social Security Schemes for weaker